

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 19th December, 2006/28 Agrahayana 1928 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions. Shri Ramdas Agarwal. ... (*Interruptions*)

Disinvestment of blue chip public sector undertakings

*381. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has given approval for disinvestment of 10 per cent equity stake or so in certain blue chip Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of such PSUs, name-wise, amount-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to utilize funds raised through this route for revival of other sick PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details of such sick PSUs on Government's list, name-wise, amount-wise, and State-wise for the purpose of revival till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government had approved disinvestment of Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) reducing Government share to 45.79% and renunciation of rights shares in May, 2002.

In January, 2006, 8% of the Government share was sold to Public Sector financial institutions and Public Sector banks.

On 6th July, 2006, the Government further decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold pending further review.

(c) and (d) The Government constituted a "National Investment Fund" (NIF) in November, 2005 for channelising the proceeds from disinvestment of equity in Central Public Sector Enterprises. The present scheme of NIF envisages that 75% of the annual income of NIF will be used to finance selected social sector schemes to promote education, health and employment and the residual 25% of the annual income of NIF will be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable Central Public Sector Enterprises in order to enlarge their capital base to finance expansion/diversification. Till date, no funds have accrued to NIF.

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, हमने माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को नोटिस दी हुई है, हमने तीन प्रश्न पूछे हैं।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: कौन सा नोटिस है?

श्री अमर सिंह: हमने सारी नियमावली का उपयोग किया है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, this is happening everyday.
...(Interruptions)... Everyday, Question Hour is being ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, we want Question Hour.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आपका क्वेश्चन है क्या इसमें?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Everyday, they are doing the same thing.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री अमर सिंह:*

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी:*

श्री सभापति: कोई रिकार्ड पर नहीं होगा, कोई रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाएगा।...(व्यवधान)... आप क्वेश्चन ऑवर चलने दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)... क्वेश्चन ऑवर चलने दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अमर सिंह: हम वाक आउट कर रहे हैं।

[कुछ माननीय सदस्य सदन से बाहर चले गए]

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट एक ऐसी बला का नाम बन गया है जो हर सरकार के गले में हड्डी बनेता जाता है। विरोध भी करते रहते हैं और डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट भी हो रहा है। यहां तक कि सीपीएम भी किसी न किसी रूप में अपने शासित राज्यों में ऐसा कर रही है। सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि 6 जुलाई, 2006 को सरकार ने विनिवेश के सभी निर्णयों तथा प्रस्तावों को आगामी समीक्षा के लिए लम्बित रखने का निर्णय लिया है। निर्णयों को लम्बित करने का निर्णय करना भी एक निर्णय है, जो इस सरकार की विशेषता है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं, मेरे प्रश्न का "क" भाग है, अभी तक जितना डिस-इंवेस्टमेंट हुआ उससे प्राप्त धनराशि में से कितना धन सिक पीएसयूज को रिवाइवल करने के लिए काम में लिया गया। प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग है, जिन पीएसयूज में कैपिटल इंवेस्टमेंट किया गया और सरकारों द्वारा समय-समय पर पैसा उन पीएसयूज को रिवाइवल के लिए दिया गया है उसमें से कितने पीएसयूज सही हालत में आए, उनका रिवाइवल हुआ या नहीं हुआ या उनका पैसा फिर लॉस में चला गया, इस प्रकार का विवरण दें?

सभापति महोदय, प्रश्न का तीसरा भाग है, हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि उन्होंने नवम्बर, 2005 में "राष्ट्रीय निवेश निधि"-(NIF) बनाया है, उसको बने डेढ़ साल के करीब होने को आ रहा है। लेकिन उन्होंने सूचित किया है कि इस NIF में अभी तक एक भी पैसा इकट्ठा नहीं हुआ है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि फिर ऐसा फंड बनाने का काम क्यों किया गया या उसकी क्या उपयोगिता है?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I repeat my written reply which has been given. The Government has kept all the disinvestment on hold. At the moment, it is not there. In coalition Government, there are situations which compel us to take certain decisions. But, this is for the time being. In future, after due discussion with everybody, it will be decided. The second question that has been asked is, whether the money from disinvestment has been ploughed back into any of the industries. No, Sir, we have not asked for it. We asked for the money and the Finance Ministry was kind enough to give us the money. About Rs. 928 crores have been given by the Finance Ministry from the Consolidated Fund for those units which have been recommended by BRPSE and accepted by the Cabinet. Also, Rs. 4888 crores which were given in the past, have been written off. So, the Government is playing its part. As regards the National Investment Fund, yes, a decision has been taken that the National Investment Fund which will be there from disinvestment, will be given for the priority schemes of education, health and unemployment. A percentage of that, 25 per cent, money that will come from disinvestment, that money will be ploughed back into sick industries. Once it is disinvested, we will get that money.

There will be no problem. As regards your other questions, we can assure you that those companies which have been given fund, they are ploughing back this money into the public sector for their greater interest; and most of them are now able to pay salaries, and not coming to us for salary, etc. I am sure that the trade unions and the workers of all the political parties will cooperate with the Government policy. As a Minister, I am happy that all the disinvestment that has been done with the help of the working force who are more responsible now, will be able to turn around more industries in future.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में जो कहा, मैंने सिर्फ एक सिम्पल छोटी सी बात उस प्रश्न में पूछी थी कि अब तक आपके पास जितना रुपया आया है, उसमें से आपने सिक इंडस्ट्रीज़ को कितना पैसा दिया है? बस उसका उत्तर-आप दें। उसके बाद मैं दूसरा सवाल पूछूंगा।

श्री सभापति: मैं बाद में अलाउ नहीं करूंगा।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सर, मैं सेकेंड सप्लीमेंट्री करूंगा।

श्री सभापति: आप सेकेंड सप्लीमेंट्री क्वेश्चन इसी के साथ पूछ लीजिए। मैं बाद में अलाउ नहीं करूंगा। आप क्वेश्चन पूछ लीजिए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सर, मैं ज्यादा पूछता नहीं हूं। सर, मेरा सेकेंड सप्लीमेंट्री क्वेश्चन है। मुझे लगता है कि यह सरकार जो इनके सहयोगी मित्र हैं, दल हैं, उनकी आंखों में धूल झाँकने का काम करने का प्रयास कर रही है और एक दूसरा रास्ता डिस-इन्वेस्टमेंट का निकाल रही है। अभी जी ओ एम की मीटिंग में यह तय किया गया है कि जो पीएसयूज़ नवरत्न हैं या अच्छे प्रोफिट में काम कर रहे हैं, उनको यह अधिकार दिया जाएगा कि वह कैपिटल मार्केट में जाएं और उसके माध्यम से अपना पैसा इकट्ठा करें। इसका अर्थ यह होगा कि पीएसयूज़ में यह 51 परसेंट रह जाएगा और बाकी का जो शेयर कैपिटल है, वह मार्केट में चला जाएगा। इसका अर्थ क्या डिस-इन्वेस्टमेंट नहीं है? इसको आप केवल अपने सहयोगियों की आलोचना से, खासतौर से सीपीएम की आलोचना से बचने के लिए कर रहे हैं। आप इसका जवाब दीजिए।

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, everything is on hold, 'Hold' means inside the suitcase. I cannot take out anything.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: It is a very good answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati S.G. Indira.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister—it has been reported in some newspapers—whether it is true that the Indian Liberal Group had put forward a suggestion to the Government for vigorous disinvestment and they have suggested greater employment generation with labour reforms and privatisation of public sector enterprises. Also, it has been reported that they have opined a target of Rs. 35 crores immediately and about Rs. 50,000 crores in future. So, I would like to know what is the view of the Government in this regard.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, unfortunately, disinvestment is not my cup of tea. The gentleman who deals with disinvestments will be able to say better. I don't know about disinvestment.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, it is true that the Indian Liberal Group has made a number of suggestions. But that is one among many suggestions that we got. We don't share the approach of the Indian Liberal Group. But it is true that the Indian Liberal Group has made some suggestions.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I understand that the hon. Minister has put everything in the suitcase. If you put the good units and the viable units in the suitcase, I can understand it. It is all right. But the units which are unviable, which are sick and which have been declared sick cannot be opened at all. What will happen to the workers and the people working there? Up to what time were their salaries and wages paid? Can the Government assure us that till the suitcase is opened and disinvestment is started, all the payments and wages will be paid by the Government in due time so that they do not suffer as a result of the non-decision of the Government on this issue?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, Government, if it is responsible, can hold the salaries and wages of the workers of the sick industries because it is a statutory liability. Only yesterday, we have taken a decision. We have already paid up to June this year; they will be paid very soon up to December. They will get it by 1st January, 2007.